The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters of direct concern to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter December 20, 1913, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 31, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 MILLION DOLLARS
TO
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1767 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 8

We're Proud Of These AFL Heroes!

Washington, D. C.—The War Department has awarded the Silver Star for heroism to 3 more members of AFL unions now serving the nation in uniform.

The stories of their bravery under enemy fire, as released officially by the War Department, should inspire their fellow workers here at home to new record-breaking accomplishments on the production front. Here they are:

Sgt. Munka Rescued His Pals

Sgt. Gordon L. Munka, Silver Star winner in the Pacific Ocean Area, has been awarded to Sgt. John Munka, member of Akron, Ohio, Local 348, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL.

Munka was on a Pacific island on June 24, 1944, when he heard the calls of several of his wounded comrades. Though his unit was pinned down by heavy machine-gun, rifle and mortar fire, he disregarded the danger to himself, and crawled forward to give what assistance he could to the wounded. His first administered first aid to 3 of the men, and then carried a fourth, who was seriously wounded, 150 yards through enemy fire to the safety of his own lines.

After almost 3 years overseas, and participation in the battles of Eniwetok, Kwajalein and Saipan, Munka, is at home with his mother, Mrs. Katherine Munka, Akron, for a 30-day furlough, after which he expects to rejoin his outfit somewhere overseas. Before joining the service, Munka was a hero worked at Sears & Roebuck, Akron. His 2 brothers are also in the Army. Cpl. Carl Munka, member of Teamsters Union 894, Akron, is serving with the air force forces in China, and Pfc. William Munka is with an Ordnance unit in France.

Sgt. Smink—A One-Man Army

The Silver Star for outstanding bravery in the Solomons on March 15, 1944, has been awarded to Sgt. Gordon L. Smink, member of the Baltimore Paper Handlers and Fly Boys Union No. 6, an affiliate of International Printing Pressmen's Union, AFL. The sergeant's father is also a member of the Pressmen's Union and he has one brother who is a member of the Typographical Union, AFL.

A member of the Infantry, Sgt. Smink, according to the War Department citation, was completely surrounded by the enemy and his gunner severely wounded, when he single-handedly repulsed repeated attacks launched against his strategic pillbox from all directions.

When a burst of fire damaged his machine-gun, Smink seized a rifle and killed 3 Japanese who attempted to storm the position, and with dogged determination pinned down the enemy until reinforcements came to his aid.

Tech. Zeuli Halts Enemy Attack

For braving heavy enemy fire to repair a break in a communications wire and thus prevent an enemy attack upon his unit's positions, Technician 4th Grade John P. Zeuli has been awarded the Silver Star, high AFL labor medal. Before joining the service in April, 1942, Zeuli was employed by the Interstate Restaurant chain organization in St. Paul, Minn., and belonged to the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, AFL. He was also a member of Local 30, the American Federation of Musicians, AFL, playing in orchestras in his spare time.

According to his mother, Mrs. Filomena Zeuli of 432 Michigan St., St. Paul, the 26-year old hero participated in 4 major amphibious landings, North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, and Southern France. Besides the Silver Star he received the Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster for two wounds in combat, one in Sicily, the other in Italy.

The action which won Corp. Zeuli the Silver Star took place on February 2, 1944, in Italy. At a time when the enemy was busily concentrating troops preparatory to an assault upon our positions, Zeuli voluntarily left the cover of an observation post to traverse terrain bare to the enemy by night and under intense artillery, mortar and rifle fire, to find and repair a break in communication wire. By his determination and courage in effecting the repair he made it possible for our observers to report the enemy activities, and to direct artillery fire on them which prevented them from attacking.

Housing—Slum Clearance In Cities

By HARRY C. BATES
Chairman AFL Housing Committee

(We present herewith the fifth of a series of articles by Mr. Bates, President of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union, on the nation's housing problems with which he is expertly familiar.)

In achieving a universally effective housing market an aggressive program of slum clearance and rehousing of low income families is America's first line of defense against future post-war development and expansion of all housing and against continued decay of our cities. The chain is as strong as its weakest link. In the same way the total housing supply of a community and its total housing plan can only be as effective as the assurance of good housing for the poorest neighborhoods to the poorest families and children in that community.

As a matter of a sound and tested policy in the broadest public interest, labor calls for resumption and expansion of the slum clearance and rehousing program of the U. S. Housing Authority to provide decent homes for families of low income whom private enterprise cannot reach. We ask that early consideration be given by Congress to the appropriation of funds under the U. S. Housing Act sufficient to achieve an annual rate of construction of 500,000 dwelling units a year by the built under low income program of properly constituted local housing authorities. We urge initial appropriations be made possible construction of not less than 250,000 dwelling units immediately following the cessation of hostilities. Congressional action is extremely urgent. An early authorization of adequate funds for authorizing local housing authorities to plan projects now so that construction may be initiated as soon as war conditions permit.

We further recommend that the fullest possible use be made of the current war housing projects for the housing of low income families. We ask that the Lanham Act be amended without delay to permit the disposal of permanent war housing projects to local housing authorities to house low income families.

To push the slum clearance and low rent housing program provision should be made for greater reliance by the housing authorities on private financing instead of federal borrowing. Local housing authorities have been notably successful in obtaining low rate funds from the sale of their bonds. An extension of this phase of local authority financing would make virtually all of the needed capital funds available from private sources.

We should like to stress that no program for large-scale construction of good housing and no plan for comprehensive urban redevelopment can succeed unless slum clearance and low rent housing for low income families with federal aid is made the prime instrumentality for cleaning up the area of economic and physical ills in our cities. The USHA plan which has proved itself extremely sound will not only enable the nation to undertake a truly effective universal program of housing under the prime lay hership of private enterprise, but will also pay large dividends and afford great economies in cutting down the enormous costs of economic backwardness, delinquency and crime now borne by our communities and by the whole nation.

Our cities from coast to coast have developed in unplanned and speculative spurts. The downtown areas have suffered declining taxes due to decentralization of industry and population to the outlying areas while becoming an ever-increasing burden to our cities.

Blighted districts have developed which must be rehabilitated before they deteriorate still further. Slums, both an economic burden and a social liability, will continue to spread if not checked. Development on the borders of our cities cannot continue and will have further sprawling and uneconomic decentralization. These threats to decent housing are of concern to the economic development of our metropolitan areas, and to the fiscal soundness of our municipalities and be stopped only a comprehensive program of planned urbanization for redevelopment of our whole metropolitan areas. The only effective way to accomplish this is through the use of federal assistance. The American Federation of Labor recommends a long-term urban redevelopment program designed to replan and rebuild our cities and to provide for their orderly growth. Such a program should embrace the following:

(1) A federal fund should be made available to local public agencies, preferably the local housing authorities which exist in assembling the land in accordance with the local development plans. The Federal Public Housing Authority should administer this program making use of the techniques and methods developed under the United States Housing Act.

(2) Legislation providing for this program should enable the acquisition of any land needed in connection with metropolitan development in conjunction with a detailed and up-to-date master plan indicating land-use: residential, recreational, business, industrial, or a combination of these; and plans for public improvements in transportation, parks, and public utilities. Specific area landuse plans should include major street changes, density and rent limits, and rehousing policies. The grant of federal funds should be conditional to the fulfillment of these requirements. It is vital that controls to enforce standards be exercised during the planning period to prevent growth of suburban slums at the expense of downtown areas.

(3) The land should be improved should be made available for development by private enterprise, or for use by the local housing authority in constructing low-rent projects, or for other public uses. Safeguards and control of land developed by private enterprise should be exercised and retained by a public agency in order to guarantee protection of the public's interest in those developments.

(4) Most important of all is to require as a condition to federal aid that the local government take the responsibility for assuring decent housing at rentals within their means for any families evicted because of land redevelopment.

Senate Lining Up Against May Bill As Voluntary Manpower Plan Gains

Washington, D. C.—The Senate Military Affairs Committee was preparing to support a compromise manpower bill which throws out the compulsory features of the May bill, adopted in the House, and retains the voluntary principle.

Members of the committee have come to the conclusion that there is no real need for a compulsory labor draft which, on the other hand, might endanger the American way of life.

Unshaken from this stand by Secretary of War Stimson's sensational radio speech urging compulsory legislation, prominent Senators accused Mr. Stimson of attempting to "dictate" legislation. They said he had exaggerated manpower shortages and given the public an unbalanced picture of production.

Senator Harley M. Kilgore, author of the substitute Senate bill now being considered, predicted the passage as more and more Senators lined up against the May bill.

Senator O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, commenting on Secretary Stimson's speech said:

"The Secretary tells the country that we alone among our Allies have not by law organized our workers to equip the soldiers. He says, 'While we have no service law, Britain and Russia have been working under such laws since the very beginning of the war. We alone are depending upon voluntary and therefore ineffective methods of organizing workers who are producing the arms and equipment.'

"For the exact measure of the 'ineffectiveness' of the voluntary system I refer Secretary Stimson to the record of Lend-Lease to Britain and Russia, the nations to which he points as an example to the United States.

"We have supplied the United Kingdom, exclusive of foodstuff, over $6,000,000,000 worth of ordnance aircraft, tanks and other materials of war. To Russia, exclusive of foodstuffs, we have supplied over $6,000,000,000 of war materials.

"It would be a pity if the soldiers on the fighting fronts should gain the impression from what the Secretary said on the radio that management and labor in the United States have let them down. Our soldiers have not been let down by the people on the home front."

Railway Clerks To Admit Veterans On Payment Of One Month's Dues

Cincinnati—President George M. Harrison announced that the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, by action of its executive council, has directed that no local lodge of the union can charge returning veterans more than the first month's dues as an admission fee.

This ruling applies to former members of the union now in the armed forces and to others seeking jobs in the brotherhood's jurisdiction.

Application for membership must be accompanied by photostat copy of the applicant's honorable discharge from the armed forces and must be filed "within sixty days after the applicant has returned to or accepted employment."

The union directed local lodges to assist veterans to get such photostats made and offered to perform the service itself without charge to the veterans.

Any person honorably discharged from military service is entitled to become a member of the brotherhood upon payment of one month's dues," Mr. Harrison said in summarizing the council's action.

More Pay For White Collar Workers Supported On AFL Radio Program

Washington, D. C.—Following up the AFL Executive Council action in demanding legislation for the benefit of white collar workers, the "America United" radio program of the federation on Feb. 18 focused nation-wide attention on the wretched plight of these workers.

Representative Robert Ramspeck, of Georgia, the guest speaker, declared that the wages of white-collar workers, including employes of the federal government, have not kept pace with living costs or the Little Steel formula.

"The present Congress should act promptly to correct this situation in workers in the government service treatment which puts them on a basis of discrimination against which no Congressman said.

Representative James B. Burns, President of the American Federation of Government Employes, Rep. Ramspeck declared he favored legislation putting into immediate effect President Roosevelt's recommendations for increases in the basic pay of government workers plus actual time and a half for overtime worked.

Mr. Burns, representing the AFL on the program, also advocated amendment of the Wage-Hour Act to lift minimum pay standards to 75 cents an hour.

"If we increase the wage rate, production is going to increase and business will be helped," Mr. Burns said. "As I see it, if the incomes of these people are to be frozen at a lower level, post-war business is necessarily going to be stifled and we are going to perpetuate a lower standard of living in this country."

Paul Sifton, representing the National Farmers Union, agreed with Mr. Burns that higher minimum wage levels are necessary. "Such an assurance" in order to sustain purchasing power during the change from wartime to peacetime production when overtime pay will be curtailed and take-home pay drops.

Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, representing the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, said that industry felt it was necessary to improve the conditions of white collar workers but he doubted whether this could be done by "wage-fixing" by the government.

Both Mr. Sifton and Rep. Rumspeck called special attention to low income standards of the nation's teachers, especially in rural districts and called for federal aid to education that would permit salary increases.

BUILDING CONTRACTOR PRAISES LABOR'S RECORD

New York City—Praising labor's war performance in the building trades and labor's cooperation with such performance, Peter W. Sheils, elected president of the New York Building Trades Employers' Association, said that such participation would be made the foundation for mutual benefit in the post-war construction boom.

He urged cooperation with labor as the watchword of the association in order to solve post-war industry problems, and to avert the threat of certain economists who now advocate government regulation of the construction industry.

ANTI-LABOR BILLS FAIL TO GAIN IN STATES

Washington, D. C.—Forty-one state legislatures, now meeting, have wound up the first month of their 1945 sessions, but so far without final enactment of any anti-labor measures.

Bills designed to hamstring unions have poured into the hoppers of many of the legislatures, but not at as great a rate as in the previous two years, a Department of Labor survey indicated.

Up to this week, restrictive bills have made marked headway in only two states—South Dakota and Georgia.

AFL Urges Voice For Labor At United Nations Meeting

One Snag Blocks Immediate Return Of United Mine Workers To AFL

Miami.—A last-minute snag blocked immediate reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers Union with the AFL after the Executive Council had worked out a solution of the chief difficulties.

As reported in the last issue, the one remaining obstacle to the return of the miners was a demand by John L. Lewis for representation of the union on the Executive Council. This the Council decided it could not guarantee under the AFL constitution.

However, the Executive Council contented itself with issuing a brief formal statement which said:

"We have advised the United Mine Workers of America that they will be re-admitted to the American Federation of Labor with all the rights and privileges of such reaffiliation enjoyed by organizations, and such reaffiliation carries with it assumption of the obligations ordinarily attached to affiliation."

The next move, AFL President William Green made it clear, is entirely up to the UMW.

He explained that the Executive Council had agreed to issue a charter to the union after Mr. Lewis had agreed that the following procedure would be followed with regard to jurisdictional disputes:—first conferences between the UMW and affiliated union claiming infringement of jurisdiction and if these conferences failed to result in settlements, consideration and decision of the remaining disputes by the Executive Council.

Central Bodies Ordered To Assist Returning Veterans To Find Jobs

Miami.—The AFL Executive Council called upon all local units of the federation to organize re-employment and rehabilitation centers for returning war veterans. The council's declaration follows:

"America's primary post-war responsibility is to provide every opportunity for returning veterans to make a new start in life.

"This decision cannot be left entirely to government. The people of our country must help the government do this job right—and that includes labor, industry, agriculture and our educational system. Nor can the problem be solved effectively at the national level. It will require strong, progressive and cooperative community action.

"Mindful of these facts and conscious of the mandate issued unanimously at the last American Federation of Labor convention for full labor participation in the program of dealing with rehabilitation of veterans, the Executive Council directs:

"1—That the American Federation of Labor take the lead in sponsoring and supporting local, state, national, state and local—which will facilitate the return of veterans to civilian life.

"2—That efforts be made to work out agreements among labor, industry and farm groups with veterans' organizations and government agencies on the proper kind of legislative and administrative action.

"3—That the 900 central bodies of the American Federation of Labor functioning in every industrial city and district of the nation, form special committees to help find jobs for returning veterans in their localities and to stimulate concerted action by all groups in each community along these lines.

"The Executive Council takes pride in reporting that the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have successfully placed the seniority rights of their members now serving in the armed forces so that the large army of more than 1,500,000 workers in uniform will find it comparatively easy to get their old jobs back when the war ends.

"The Executive Council also highly commends the action of most affiliated organizations in waiving initiation fees for any qualified veteran of this war who wishes to become a member of the union when he gets back home.

"Beyond this, labor must devote particular attention to the program of rehabilitating the many thousands of disabled war veterans and war plant workers who have sustained permanent injuries as a result of the war effort.

"These men must not be relegated to the scrap heap. This is a responsibility which labor and industry, working together, must assume and can discharge. The Executive Council calls upon the special veterans committee of affiliated central bodies to concentrate their efforts on the attainment of this objective."

Green Asks IFTU To Meet In U. S., Hits Hillman's Disruptive Moves

Miami.—AFL President William Green expressed the hope that the International Federation of Trade Unions will hold its world-wide labor conference next September in the United States.

Such a conference of the free and democratic trade union organizations of the world "is vitally necessary," Mr. Green said, "to lay the basis for future international labor policy, to unify and strengthen labor's voice with regard to post-war settlements and to map plans for the improvement of labor standards throughout the world when peace returns."

At the same time, Mr. Green reiterated that the AFL would have nothing to do with the so-called world labor organization recently set up by London, which he termed a "Communist front" movement, and Sidney Hillman, CIO leader, who was a prize mover in the new and dual international group, Mr. Green declared:

"Sidney Hillman has now extended his disruptive and divisive influence, hitherto confined to labor and political fields in this country, to the international labor sphere," Mr. Green said. "His sarcastic address the other day before the so-called World Labor Conference in London was typical of the man and his methods.

"Again he has allied himself with communistic friends in order to promote disruption and discord and plunge labor's economic objectives into the stormy sea of world politics.

"His sudden emergence with a plan for a new world trade union federation completely dominated by Soviet Russia and communistically minded labor organizations in this country has placed the British Trades Union Congress in a distinctly embarrassing position. The British Trades Union Congress must now decide whether to maintain its cooperative and fraternal relationships with the other member organizations of the IFTU or to play second fiddle in Mr. Hillman's new Communist labor front."

Executive Council Demands Hearing For AFL Plan For World Peace

Miami.—The American Federation of Labor demanded that the government accord labor full representation at the conference of the United Nations to be held at San Francisco April 25 to set up machinery for lasting peace.

The purpose of such representation, AFL President William Green declared, would be to make known labor's recommendations "for the establishment of a secure peace and for dealing with post-war problems."

He revealed that an AFL committee would be appointed to attend the conference as delegates from this country or as "advisers" to the American delegates.

The AFL Executive Council, meanwhile, concluded its mid-winter meeting here after taking the following additional actions:

1—Is agreed to re-admit the United Mine Workers into the Federation when and if that union assumes the obligations attached to affiliation.

2—It unanimously ratified President Green's rejection of a tricky proposal for "functional unity" made by the CIO and his criticism of the CIO for failure to accept the AFL's offer to negotiate organic unity.

3—It called upon Congress to amend the National Labor Relations Act so that the workers themselves—and not the National Labor Relations Board—shall determine the unit to represent them in collective bargaining.

4—It urged all central bodies of the federation to set up special committees at once for the re-employment and rehabilitation of returning war veterans.

Before adjourning until its next meeting in Washington in the spring, the Executive Council heard a detailed report from Joseph A. Padway, AFL counsel, on developments with regard to proposals for state and federal anti-labor legislation and on the progress of litigation against existing anti-labor statutes.

Mr. Padway expressed confidence that Supreme Court will outlaw most of the obnoxious measures already adopted. Such action, he felt, would deter state legislatures in the future from enacting further legislation of this kind.

The Council authorized President Green to support the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to provide new job opportunities for sightless workers.

It also instructed Mr. Green to notify local unions of cannery workers on the Pacific Coast that warehouse employes have been issued a charter by and cover to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which has jurisdiction over such workers.

Dealing with another jurisdictional dispute, the Council clarified a previous settlement regarding repair work on engineering machinery. The dispute involved the International Association of Machinists and the Operating Engineers.

Mr. Green took prompt action would be taken to carry out the council's action at the conference of the NLRA. An amendment, patterned after a provision now incorporated in the New York state labor law, will be drafted and introduced in Congress at once.

At present, Mr. Green explained, the NLRB exercises arbitrary authority to determine by itself what the appropriate collective bargaining unit in each representation case shall be. In many cases, he charged, the board's decisions have been contrary to the wishes of the workers affected and have aroused widespread ill-feeling and occasional strikes. He cited the strike of teamsters in St. Paul breweries as an example of the resentment of workers against attempts of the board to force them into unions not of their own choice.

Under the proposed amendment, the workers would be given the opportunity to decide in an election whether they wished a separate craft unit in a plant or whether to be included in a single industrial unit and the board would have to comply with their decision.

MACHINISTS TO HONOR PRESIDENT H. W. BROWN

New York City—A testimonial dinner will be given here March 23 at the Hotel New Yorker to President Harvey W. Brown of the International Association of Machinists by the State Council of the union.

The invitations to the dinner state that under Mr. Brown's leadership the union has not only met every production test of the war, but tripled its membership and strengthened its organization."

LABOR RELATIONS COURSE POPULAR IN SCHOOLS

Minneapolis—In recognition of the importance of collective bargaining, many leading universities have added classes in labor relations during the past few years.

Among these is the University of Minnesota, which initiated such courses last year, in collaboration with organized labor, and, because of their success, will renew the program this year.

THE AFL PRESENTS . . . . "AMERICA UNITED" At 1:15 P.M., EWT, Over NBC

Date	Guest	Topic	Panel Members
Feb. 25	Sen. Vandenberg	Lifting Gov't Controls	Phil Pearl, AFL Emerson P. Schmidt, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Albert S. Goss, National Grange
Mar. 4	Sen. O'Mahoney	Threat of Monopoly	Boris Shishkin, AFL Emerson P. Schmidt, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Edward A. O'Neal, Am. Farm Bureau Fed.
Mar. 11	Sen. Wagner	Housing	Boris Shishkin, AFL Emerson P. Schmidt, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Paul Sifton, National Farmers Union

* Because a number of radio stations are carrying the program by transcription at another hour or even at a later date, please consult the radio listings in your local paper for the exact time "America United" goes on the air in your community.

TECHNICAL ENGINEERS WIN TWO ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—By winning an NLRB election, Local 105, International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Union became the collective bargaining agents for all technical engineering, architectural and other technical employes including engineering aides in the design division of Stone & Webster Engineering Co.'s Boston headquarters. Vote was 238 for Local 105 against 161 for the company's so-called independent union.

Newly-chartered Local 112 of the Technical Engineers was named bargaining unit, by vote of 124 to 22, for engineering employes of the American Bosch Corp., Springfield, Mass. Unit includes technical engineering, architectural, experimental, chemical, research and other technical employes of the company's plants at Springfield and Chicopee, Mass.